

**Nicole Wreford**

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**From:** WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 October 2024 2:38 PM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** September Newsletter - Spring celebrations, Keep an eye out for shot-hole borer and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



September 2024



Highly ornamental Qualup Bells are indigenous to Western Australia. Image credit: Marilyn Sprague.

## Great Southern Treasures region celebrates Spring

The Bloom Festival, encompassing 50 plus events and activities across nine shires and 26 communities, is the signature annual event of the Great Southern Treasures region.

Running from September 20 to October 21, presented by WCP Civil and supported by Tourism WA, the festival celebrates Spring renewal, focusing on the region's wildflowers, wonderful landscapes and other attractions.

Great Southern Treasures covers shires in the northern part of the Great Southern Region of Western Australia – Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook (incorporating Frankland River), Gnowangerup, Kent, Katanning, Kojonup, Jerramungup and Woodanilling.

[Read more](#)

## Citizen scientists keeping an eye out for the shot-hole borer



The tiny beetle is highly invasive and attacks a wide range of plant species. Image credit: Department of Agriculture and Food.

Community surveillance is playing a key part in the battle against the destructive polyphagous shot-hole borer which is impacting Perth's urban canopy.

Public reports of suspected sightings are assisting the biosecurity response, and at the Perth Royal Show in September, WA families were encouraged to join the fight against this tiny beetle from Southeast Asia by visiting the



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) display.

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## New conservation areas for Shark Bay



Steep Point is one of many camping and recreation destinations included in the Shark Bay region. Image credit: Tourism Western Australia.

The WA Government and Malgana Aboriginal Corporation have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement that paves the way for a new era of conservation management in Shark Bay.

Known in the Malgana language as Gathaagudu, Shark Bay is globally recognised for its cultural and natural values including dugongs and stromatolites, and spectacular camping and recreation destinations such as Steep Point and Zuytdorp Cliffs.

The proposed Malgana Conservation Estate will be jointly managed by Traditional Owners and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. It will comprise 183,000 hectares of new conservation areas including Yaringa and Pimbee nature reserves, Edel Land National Park and the Malgana portion of Nanga National Park.

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## Bees under threat from land-use changes



A native bee from Australia visiting flowers of Stinkwood *Jacksonia Sternbergiana*. Image credit: Brad Durrant and University of Western Australia.

A new collaborative study has found that bees are increasingly under threat due to environmental degradation caused by changes in land use.

The researchers found changes such as land clearing and urban development altered the availability of flowers in the landscape, significantly impacting bee populations, especially larger-bodied species.

Ecologists from The University of Western Australia, University of Canterbury in New Zealand and CSIRO, explored how the availability of floral energy



resources in the landscape affected bee populations in 23 Banksia woodland fragments in WA.

The researchers found that flowers in areas surrounding bushland were vital for the persistence of bees in remnant woodlands.

[Read more](#)

## Connecting with nature for well-being



Experience mindfulness in nature with Perth-based tour company Mindful in Nature. Image credit: Raquel Aranda and Mindful in Nature.

Perth-based tour company Mindful in Nature has several new tours and experiences, all designed to foster a deeper connection with nature and promote health and well-being.

The Discover Forest Bathing in Dwellingup tour offers guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in the tranquility of the forest in Perth's Peel Region.

The monthly Forest Bathing Experience in Kings Park provides the opportunity to slow down, breathe deeply, and connect with the natural world through guided mindfulness and sensory exercises.

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